

# Federal Inquiry or Railroad Strike?

Faced by demands from the conductors, engineers, firemen and brakemen that would impose on the country an additional burden in transportation costs of \$100,000,000 a year, the railroads propose that this wage problem be settled by reference to an impartial Federal tribunal.

With these employees, whose efficient service is acknowledged, the railroads have no differences that could not be considered fairly and decided justly by such a public body.

## Railroads Urge Public Inquiry and Arbitration

The formal proposal of the railroads to the employees for the settlement of the controversy is as follows:

"Our conferences have demonstrated that we cannot harmonize our differences of opinion and that eventually the matters in controversy must be passed upon by other and disinterested agencies. Therefore, we propose that your proposals and the proposition of the railroads be disposed of by one or the other of the following methods:

1. Preferably by submission to the Interstate Commerce Commission, the only tribunal which, by reason of its accumulated information bearing on railway conditions and its control of the revenue of the railways, is in a position to consider and protect the rights and equities of all the interests affected, and to provide additional revenue necessary to meet the added cost of operation in case your proposals are found by the Commission to be just and reasonable; or, in the event the Interstate Commerce Commission cannot, under existing laws, act in the premises, that we jointly request Congress to take such action as may be necessary to enable the Commission to consider and promptly dispose of the questions involved; or

2. By arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Federal law" (The Newlands Act).

## Leaders Refuse Offer and Take Strike Vote

Leaders of the train service brotherhoods, at the joint conference held in New York, June 1-15, refused the offer of the railroads to submit the issue to arbitration or Federal review, and the employees are now voting on the question whether authority shall be given these leaders to declare a nation-wide strike.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is proposed by the railroads as the public body to which this issue ought to be referred for these reasons:

No other body with such an intimate knowledge of railroad conditions has such an unquestioned position in the public confidence.

The rates the railroads may charge the public for transportation are now largely fixed by this Government board.

Out of every dollar received by the railroads from the public nearly one-half is paid directly to the em-

ployees as wages; and the money to pay increased wages can come from no other source than the rates paid by the public.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, with its control over rates, is in a position to make a complete investigation and render such decision as would protect the interests of the railroad employees, the owners of the railroads, and the public.

## A Question For the Public to Decide

The railroads feel that they have no right to grant a wage preferment of \$100,000,000 a year to these employees, now highly paid and constituting only one-fifth of all the employees, without a clear mandate from a public tribunal that shall determine the merits of the case after a review of all the facts.

The single issue before the country is whether this controversy is to be settled by an impartial Government inquiry or by industrial warfare.

## National Conference Committee of the Railways

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## BOTH DUMB AND DEAF A LAUGH RESTORES HIM

WAR HERO TELLS HOW A FUNNY  
PICTURE GAVE BACK  
FACULTIES.

Corporal Robert Beck, formerly a Chicago chauffeur and until recently in Kitchener's army, who recovered his speech and hearing lost in Flanders by a bullet from a German sniper by laughing at a moving picture comedy in England, arrived from Liverpool on the Orforda Friday and left last night for Chicago.

Honorably discharged from the army on account of wounds, he will go back to his home, 221 South Racine avenue, Chicago, and his old job and hopes soon to save money enough to send for his young bride, who he met on a recruiting rally in England and married three days later.

"On May 26, 1915, ten kilometers from Dixmunde, where I was a dispatch rider," he said yesterday, "I was humming along the road toward Haasbrouck when a sniper got me between the shoulder blades. I came to in a hospital at Boulogne, my speech and hearing gone. Later, convalescing in Maghull Military Hospital near Liverpool, and still unable to speak or hear, I went with a lot of other wounded soldiers to a matinee of the Alhambra Palace Picture Theater. I saw a comical fellow come out on the screen, but try my best I couldn't laugh at him.

"All of a sudden both my ears seemed to break open with my effort to laugh or speak. It was as if a couple of Jack Johnsons had burst near me. I was dazed for a minute, but discovering that I could hear a train going by, I made an exclamation and found I could speak. Then I got up and shouted for joy.

"When my pals discovered I could hear and speak they joined in shouting their glee, and the manager turned on the lights to see who was making the row. The bobbies were called by somebody downstairs who thought it was a fight. Three of them jumped on us soldiers and there was a fine free-for-all before they found what we were celebrating."

Being a veteran of the Boer War, Beck applied to the British Consul in Chicago when the war broke out, and was sent to London, where he enlisted as a dispatch rider. He was

in the battles of the Aisne, La Bassée, Neuve Chapelle and the first and second battles of Ypres and the hottest engagements along the Flanders front.

When King George pinned the distinguished conduct medal on Beck for saving a wounded officer under fire by carrying him off the field on his back, the King, learning he was originally from Cork, said, "Now, don't you and Michael O'Leary, V. C., and the other Corkonians try to whip the whole German army, or we poor English won't have anything left to do."

Beck has also the Queen Victoria medal for gallantry on the Cape Mounted Police while fighting Zulus, and the King Edward medal for gallantry at the battle of the Paardeberg, where Kronje was captured in the Boer War.—New York World.

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"Yet Uncle John Braisher, in his delightful little article shows that a little tube just that big floating around in Lake Erie takes up exactly as much room in the lake, by comparison, as our earth fills in the space around us, the boundaries of which are only as far away as the nearest star."

"This recalls Mark Twain's great story, Capt. Stormfield's Visit to Heaven, wherein are recorded the difficulties which the captain confronted in the next world when he tried to explain where he came from. He said that San Francisco was his native place. Nobody in heaven had heard of San Francisco. Then he named California, and, meeting with no response, he went on with considerable irritation to mention the United States and America. Nobody had heard of them. Finally he alim-

ed the earth as his former home, and at last, after a long search through the records of heaven, it was discovered that among the billions upon billions of stars, worlds, constellations and planets there was, in the dusty tomes, a slight reference to an insignificant speck known in heaven as The Wart, and recognized by Stormfield as our good old Mother Earth.

"In this connection it is also well to remember that the wonders of space. Nobody knows or can even guess how long this Big Show has been running. Anyway, it is a very old show as well as a very large one."

"I am glad that 'Uncle John' has brought this matter to our attention again. It is a good thing once in a while to be set right on our comparative importance in the scheme of things. At this time it is an especially welcome and refreshing bit of comment. For one thing, it makes the emperor of Germany seem less important. Also, it will help us to pass through the egotism and dogmatism of a presidential campaign with better perspective and more humor. Furthermore, the hardships we have to endure may be nothing compared with those which are pestering the inhabitants of other worlds who, for all we know, may be even more self-centered and sensitive than we—though this seems hardly possible."

"That a knowledge of the stars helps to keep one's ego in proper restraint is demonstrated in the case of Mr. Braisher himself, for in all Pittsburgh there isn't a man with less ego than 'Uncle John.' Anybody, from the mayor down to the tiniest newsboy on a Smithfield street, will tell you that he is the biggest man in the city—and the simplest and most conductors spy the old gentleman a block away and hold up traffic for the privilege of getting him as a passenger. They love him because he loves them—and because arrogance and superiority are totally absent from his makeup. From studying the stars 'Uncle John' has learned humility."

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## JAPAN DENIES SHE WILL AID MEXICO

BARON ISHII SAYS JAPANESE DESIRE  
PEACE IN ALL  
AMERICA.

Tokio, June 23.—"Of course any claim that the Japanese Government will assist Mexicans with munitions and arms is out of the question and absurd," said Baron Ishii, Foreign Minister, to a correspondent of The Associated Press, who asked him today for his views on the Mexican situation. The interview was sought on account of declarations attributed to Mexicans that assurances had been received from Japan that munitions and other assistance would be given to Mexico in event of war with the United States.

"As for private Japanese companies selling arms to Mexicans," the Foreign Minister continued, "I consider it extremely improbable. As you know, all available rifles and guns are being furnished to Japan's allies to assist in bringing the European war to a successful issue. And I fancy, though I do not know, that munitions not available for our allies may have found their way to China during the revolutionary troubles."

"Let me say this with all the emphasis and earnestness at my command," said the Minister, swinging around in his chair. "The Japanese nation sincerely hopes that armed conflict between the United States and Mexico may be avoided. Japan's interest in America, North, Central and South, being essentially pacific and commercial, any event bringing disturbance into the American market would be felt keenly in Japan. This is especially true at a moment when the whole European trade is virtually closed to Japan and the Chinese market is seriously upset."

Never Heard of It.

Baron Ishii expressed surprise and mystification when the correspondent referred to Gen. Ramon Iturbe, a representative of Gen. Carranza, who was reported several weeks ago to be on his way to Japan on a secret mission. The Baron declared he never had heard of Gen. Iturbe or his projected visit. He explained that he regarded the Carranza Government as the de facto Government of Mexico and that the usual relations with Gen. Carranza were being maintained.

Japan's interests in Mexico, he said, were in charge of Secretary Ohta, formerly attached to the Japanese Embassy at Washington. He said he had received no advice from Secretary Ohta in regard to the present situation. Col. Manuel Romero, recently appointed Minister to Japan by Carranza, has reached this country, but has not had an audience with the Emperor, and the Baron said it was impossible to state when he would be received in audience. Any idea that the Japanese Government was interfering in the Mexican situation, he declared, was as absurd as the idea that munitions were being supplied.

M. C. Tellez, the Mexican Charge, in an interview with the Associated Press asserted emphatically that the Mexican Government had ordered no arms or munitions in Japan and that no negotiations for such supplies are under way.

No Arms to Sell.

Senor Tellez said he believed all available Japanese arms had been sold to Russia. The last Mexican transaction in Japan, he continued, was made between Gen. Huerta and the Mitsui company in 1913. It called for 30,000 rifles, for which Gen. Huerta advanced part payment. Only 7,000 were delivered to him and the remainder were sold to Russia at the outbreak of the war. A satisfactory financial settlement was made by Mexico in October, 1915.

In regard to Gen. Iturbe, Senor Tellez said recently that he had gone to Spain on a mission. The report that the General was coming to Japan reached Senor Tellez and he cabled to his government about it. He was informed in reply that the report was groundless.

As for Col. Romero, Senor Tellez said he arrived in Tokyo a fortnight ago, announcing that he came in the capacity of Mexican Minister and was living at the Mexican legation. He had visited Baron Ishii and requested an audience with the Emperor. It was he who negotiated the purchase of arms for Gen. Huerta in 1913.

To a question where Gen. Carranza will obtain munitions, Senor Tellez replied: "We make them in Mexico and, like Villa, have imported them from the United States."

The Oriental steamship liner Selyo Maru, which sailed on May 29 for South American ports, is due at San Francisco to-morrow and at Salina Cruz, Mex., nine days later. Manager Asano said to-day that she carried no arms or munitions and

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